

SUPPORT TO THE SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROGRAMME

Update on Major Activities in October 2007

General

- Renewed links with the DfID Health Sector Reform Support Programme (HSR-SP) through a meeting with the new RTI Director
- Developed a concept paper outlining ideas for ongoing SSMP advocacy and end of programme dissemination planning
- Supported the development of a post doctoral research proposal (Jo Morrison, UK) to explore and measure the empowerment of communities and individuals in rural Nepal where inputs have been provided under SSMP, NSMP and MIRA.
- Opened discussions with government partners about the transition from TC to FA
- Supported regional reviews
- The SSMP Equity and Access Adviser participated in the global Women Deliver conference held in London, accompanying Dr Babu Ram Marasini, Chief of HESRU, MoHP, who was supported by SSMP and presented a paper on the MIS. Other representatives from the MoHP also attended.

Output 1: Equity and Access (EA) (including AAN and JHU/CCP)

- Provided technical assistance to NHEICC for the district level orientation on BCC during the Western Regional Workshop (Pokhara). All district level Health Education Technicians, DHO/DPHOs and some INGO partners from each district critically reviewed the annual health education past achievements and future plans.
- Held a meeting of the Equity and Access Advisory Group to discuss progress of the EA programme. It was decided that representatives from NHEICC and Social Welfare Council should be invited as members for the next meeting.
- Presented findings of the voice capturing exercise at the SSMP partners' meeting.
- Initiated fieldwork for a comparative study of two EA models, with and without the service strengthening component, in Rupandehi (with) and Nawalparasi (without) districts.
- Collected service utilisation data from health facilities at VDC and district level. Processing and analysis are underway.
- Wrote and reviewed mini-drama scripts and sent to the districts for localisation.
- Reviewed Nepali radio magazine scripts produced by district radio teams.
- Two additional FM radio stations (Vijaya FM of Nawalparasi and Shreenagar FM of Palpa) began airing the weekly episodes of the radio magazine "Aama", free of charge. This makes a total of seven stations airing the programme.
- In collaboration with the District (Public) Health Offices, EA Programme partner NGOs celebrated FCHV day with various activities to recognise the contribution of FCHVs.
- Held a preparatory meeting on newborn and PNC messages and materials with NHEICC, SSMP, SCUS, and UNICEF to revise the concept note and determine next steps.
- Provided on-site capacity building input to district EA support organisations, mass media and voice organisations.
- Provided technical support to USAID-funded NMARC project in their qualitative research on newborns, through field visits and feedback.
- Reviewed and provided feedback to Safe Motherhood Network Federation in their safe motherhood advocacy reporting and future plans.

Output 2: Service strengthening

Representatives and partners attended FHD SMNH Sub Committee meeting, providing input for finalisation of the criteria for birthing centres.

More detailed information not available for this month

United Mission to Nepal (UMN) (2 districts)

- Proposal submitted and under review for one year no-cost extension of SSMP/ UMN partnership
- Action plans followed up in all supported health facilities
- Continued with SMNH update for FCHVs, TBAs, MCHWs and VHWs in Mugu district
- Meeting with management committees of Rudrapur sub health post and Parroha health post
- Utilisation of delivery services increased in all supported health facilities and 25% of service users in Mugu hospital are from Dalit and Janjati populations.

UNICEF (8 districts)

- Proposal for no-cost extension and revision of programme inputs under discussion
- Five batches of two-day district level review workshops carried out and orientation on SMNH and HMIS for ANM/ MCHW/ VHW, in-charges of PHCCs and health posts and then district Supervisor in Saptari.
- Planning workshops conducted for creating an enabling environment for SBAs and 24-hour delivery services in health posts and selected SHPs in Panchthar
- Achham: Five SBA workshops conducted at health post level (Santada, Kuchi, Shreekot, Jaygadh, Mastabandali)
- Kabhre : Three PHCC level planning workshops conducted to strengthen EOC services (Methinkot, Panchkhal and Khopashi) and one health post planning workshop for creating an enabling environment for SBAs and 24-hour delivery services (Mangaltar). Regular field visits to monitor construction of birthing centres (Methinkot PHCC, Bhumlutar, Bekhsimle, Mangaltar health posts).
- Panchthar: Provided technical support to planning workshops at health posts and selected SHPs for creating an enabling environment for SBAs and 24-hour delivery services.
- Udayapur: Contracted an Appreciative Inquiry facilitator for five AI training of trainer workshops and SBA Planning workshop.
- Followed up with NHTC and SSMP regarding AA training requested for Banke, Udayapur and Jumla, which has not yet happened.
- Organised and participated in the FHD debriefing meeting for the Safe Motherhood ROSA review conducted in September 2007, for FHD inputs and comment.
- Prepared and submitted second progress report to DFID.

TCIC (Abortion)

- Listed 3 new government and 3 new private facilities as CAC sites
- Conducted sixth CAC Advisory Committee Meeting. Key decision made was the length of CAC training for different cadres of service providers (14 days for registered nurses, 10 days for MBBS doctors, 7 days for Ob/Gyn with less than five years experience, 3 days for experienced Ob/Gyn)
- Conducted TCIC planning meeting

- Gave a presentation on the achievements of the Nepal CAC programme at the Marie Stopes International conference in London
- Five participants attended the Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health (APCRSH) conference in Hyderabad
- Supported three x3-day orientations for reproductive health focal persons in Kathmandu, Biratnagar and Pokhara
- Monitored the approved FPAN training site at Itahari (Eastern Region), provided orientation on CAC training and handed over training materials. The site can now begin training
- Attended FIGO initiative meeting on unsafe abortion at FPAN
- Carried out monitoring and technical support visits to 12 sites
- Selected an organisation to develop a radio programme on CAC.
- Developed an orientation package on CAC for FCHVs

Output 3: Public private partnerships

No separate activities under this output, which cuts across the work of other outputs.

Output 4: Decentralisation

No separate activities under this output, which cuts across the work of other outputs.

Output 5: Human resource development

- Finalised the 42-day OTTM training package
- 15-day SBA training provided for to Obstetrician/ Gynaecologists and MDGPs
- Coordinated organisation of Clinical Skills Training (CTS) for the doctors and nurses
- Participated in the Advisory Group meeting for Anaesthetic Assistant Training
- Coordinated with Koshi Zonal Hospital to develop a plan for post SBA training follow up from mid December to mid January.
- Identified participants for next planned SBA training

Output 6: Information

- Completed draft of the maternal mortality further analysis of Nepal Demographic and Health Survey.
- Supported Dr Babu Ram Marasini, Chief, HESRU, MoHP in developing a presentation on the Maternity Incentive Scheme for the Women Deliver Conference in London.
- Participated in the MoHP preparation meeting for the Women Deliver Conference, which was chaired by Ms Shashi Shrestha, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Population
- Meeting with Dr Sudha Sharma, Director, Maternity Hospital to discuss ongoing maternal perinatal death review study
- Further information provided for uploading on the revised website

Output 7: Physical assets

- Completed needs assessments of B/CEOC and CAC service sites planned for the year 2007/08

- Initiated dialogue with Crown Agents for supporting procurement of equipment and instruments proposed for the year 2007-08. Although it was hoped to finalise and publish the tender by October this was not possible, but it is expected the tender will be called by first/second week of November
- Handed over SBA training equipment to Lumbini Zonal Hospital and Seti Zonal Hospital Pokhara
- Monitored CEOC training centre construction in Pokhara and BEOC sites in Rupandehi
- Supported Management Division in designing a placenta pit for different conditions.

Output 8: Finance

Maternity Incentives Scheme (MIS)

- Conducted the MIS working group meeting and re-sent the revised MIS guideline to MoHP.
- Organised MIS orientation training for mid level managers (public health nurse, family planning supervisor, and accountant).
- Selected the NGO, CREHPA, to carry out an independent study of the MIS. Contact persons are Anand Tamang and Jyotsna Tamang.
- Advertisement for the regional coordinator posts has been placed in the newspaper.
- Follow-up meetings to ensure the applications for the post of regional coordinators were processed with TU/IOM nursing campus and chairperson of Purbanchal University nursing subject committee.
- Supported ICH (Tim Powell Jackson and Basu Dev Neupane) in the development of the tools and finalisation of the sample size of the Impact evaluation of MIS.
- Supported FHD to coordinate with finance section of DoHS and MoHP.
- Supported FHD to coordinate with district, regional and central hospital to implement the MIS with other RH activities.

List of Acronyms

| | |
|---------|---|
| AAN | ActionAid Nepal |
| BCC | Behaviour Change Communication |
| BEOC | Basic Emergency Obstetric Care |
| BPP | Birth Preparedness Package |
| CAC | Comprehensive Abortion Care |
| CEOC | Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care |
| CHD | Child Health Division |
| CREHPA | Centre for Research in Environment Health and Population Activities |
| DHO | District Health Officer |
| DoHS | Department of Health Services |
| DPHO | District Public Health Officer |
| DUDBC | Department of Urban Development and Building Construction |
| EA | Equity and Access |
| FA | Financial Aid |
| FCHV | Female Community Health Volunteers |
| FHD | Family Health Division |
| FP | Family Planning |
| HMIS | Health management Information System |
| HSR-SP | Health Sector Reform - Support Programme |
| IEC | Information Education and Communication |
| JAR | Joint Annual Review |
| JHU/CCP | Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health/ Centre for Communication Programmes |
| LMD | Logistics management Division |
| MD | Management Division |
| MIS | Maternity Incentives Scheme |
| MoHP | Ministry of Health and Population |
| MSI | Marie Stopes International |
| MVA | Manual Vacuum Aspiration |
| NDHS | Nepal Demographic and Health Survey |
| NESOG | Nepal Society for gynaecologists and Obstetricians |
| NGO | Non Government Organisation |
| NHEICC | National Health Education Information Communication Centre |
| NHTC | National Health Training Centre |
| NPC | National Planning Commission |
| NSI | Nick Simons Institute |
| PHN | Public Health Nurse |
| PNC | Post Natal Care |
| RH | Reproductive Health |
| RHCC | Reproductive Health Coordination Committee |
| SBA | Skilled Birth Attendant |
| SHP | Sub Health Post |
| SMNF | Safe Motherhood Network Federation |
| SMNH | Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health |
| SSMP | Support to the Safe Motherhood Programme |
| TC | Technical Cooperation |
| TCIC | Technical Committee for Implementation of Comprehensive Abortion Care |
| TUTH | Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital |
| UMN | United Mission to Nepal |
| UNFPA | United Nations Fund for Population Activities |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| VDC | Village Development Committee |

